

## Media Release

Wednesday 28 November 2012

### National Local Government Workforce Census Begins

The inaugural census about the Australian local government workforce will begin on **Friday 30 November**. Most councils will have received circulars from their jurisdictions encouraging participation in this valuable exercise.

The census will be open for three weeks until **Friday 21 December**.

The *Australian Local Government Workforce and Employment Census* (ALGWECensus) is co-ordinated by the Australian Centre of Excellence for Local Government (ACELG) with funding by the Australian Government. It is part of a national initiative by federal, state and territory local government ministers to improve local government workforce development.

It is the most ambitious local government data collection exercise undertaken so far in Australia. John Ravlic, Chief Executive of Local Government Managers Australia (National) said of the initiative:

“It is not possible to overestimate the importance of this data to the future of local government. Councils across the country will benefit from participation in the census as we better understand the makeup of our sector’s workforce and its needs. The data will also provide us with a starting point against which we’ll be able to model future trends.”

The collection of a nationally focused dataset about the Australian local government workforce will provide significant opportunities. The dataset will:

- underpin a range of national employment strategies
- form the basis for potential funding of local government-based training initiatives
- help improve workforce planning within individual councils
- support national efforts to address skill shortages, enhance the professionalism of local government and facilitate greater workforce diversity.

The census will also develop and maintain a nationally consistent dataset on women’s participation in the local government sector, including both elected representatives and senior management positions.

The census was successfully piloted with a range of councils and their feedback has been incorporated into the final census. Tom Tyrpenou, Manager of Human Resources at Rockdale Council said of the pilot census: “I found it very simple to use, and it will be most useful for extending our workforce statistical information to drive our strategic decision making.”

A dedicated website has been established for participants to ask questions, discuss and share experiences about the census: [www.algwecensus.org](http://www.algwecensus.org)

**Further information:** [next page]



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